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CIA foes at Princeton condemn campus ties

By HERB JAFFE

Evidence that Princeton University professors served as "consultants" for the Central Intelligence Agency for possibly two decades, ending in 1973, are among the papers of the late CIA Director Allen W. Dulles which have been presented to the university's library.

But CIA influence on the Princeton campus has not ceased, a Princeton professor said at a news conference yesterday, adding, "Some of the most respected universities in the country have been compromised by the CIA."

Dulles was an alumnus of Princeton who died in 1969, and a group of students and faculty opposed to covert intelligence gathering at universities told of his CIA ties with Princeton faculty and the administration during news conferences held on the campus and at the United Nations Plaza in New York.

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"We hope we can start a campaign at universities to cut all covert ties," stated John Cavanagh, a graduate student at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Cavanagh and Professor Steve Slaby of the Princeton School of Engineering said CIA activities, while no longer employing "consultant" professors, still exist openly.

"CIA activities are open on the Princeton campus and at all universities today," Cavanagh said. "Professors even send resumes of students to the CIA."

He added CIA Director Stansfield Turner is attempting to remove legal barriers against the CIA's use of professors, clergy, journalists and others, "even though Turner has conceded the CIA has violated such prohibitions in the past three years."

In stating "we are perilously close to being a police state," Slaby revealed that a resolution is being prepared for a Princeton faculty meeting next week, "intended to protect academic freedom."

He said the purpose of the resolution would be "to make public all covert relations at Princeton, with any covert agency."

Cavanagh and John Kelly, editor of a Washington-based magazine called "Counterspy," explained that the Dulles papers, presented to the university's Seely G. Mudd Library, consist of letters, speeches, articles and other documents. They are held in 200 boxes, with 50 separate files in each box.

The files include documents from 1920 to 1969, although numerous reference letters are missing, according to Cavanagh, who said he viewed only those papers pertaining to the 1960s.

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It was in these files that he uncovered the names of at least five Princeton professors — experts in Soviet and Chinese affairs — among a group of 13 "consultant" professors who met four times a year, for two-day periods, with Dulles and other CIA officials.

Dulles served as CIA director from 1953 to 1961. After his retirement, he was a member of the Princeton board of trustees and of the advisory council of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School.

Cavanagh said former Princeton President Robert Goheen, who is now the U.S. ambassador to India, "was aware of the group's existence," referring to the consultants, but said at some point, in an interview with the student newspaper, it was "not a university matter at all."

Among some of the other university professors who were "consultants" — reporting directly to the CIA's Board of National Estimates, according to Cavanagh — were two from Harvard, two from

MIT, one from Duke and one from the University of California at Berkeley.

The purpose of the group was to provide the CIA with intelligence "estimates," based on members' findings.

The board of estimates of the CIA was characterized by a former CIA officer as a 12- to 14-person board with a staff of 40 to 50 specialists. The professors, according to Cavanagh's search of the Dulles papers and other documentation, "probably formed an adjunct to the specialists."

He said the purpose of the board of estimates was to prepare annually "some 50 or so national intelligence estimates, called 'blue books,' which were considered the highest form of national intelligence."

The first of the Dulles letters that refer to the consultants was written in 1961, the year Dulles retired from the CIA and is believed, according to the papers, to have taken a more active role at Princeton.

Under an agreement with the Dulles family, the papers may not be examined in the Princeton library unless approval is granted by "the committee in charge of the Allen W. Dulles papers."

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Asked about the committee, library curator Nancy Bressler, who is responsible for public affairs papers of recent times, said:

"The committee consists of two former associates of Mr. Dulles and one archivist appointed by the Dulles family."

The restriction on the papers will end in 1994, she said, adding:

"It's not the kind of agreement we prefer, but we were told that we could not have the papers without this restriction."

An application for access to the documents takes from two weeks to a month for the committee to screen, she said.

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The group which conducted yesterday's news conference, however, feels the papers could reveal much more data with regard to CIA activities on college campuses.

"The CIA is reaching the core of our institutions, and this is threatening academic independence," Slaby asserted. "The rape of free and open scholarship is being sought by the CIA, and the payoff comes in the form of government-sponsored research projects."

"The teaching profession cannot search for the truth by distorting it, especially when faculty members are paid to lie," he said, referring to professors employed covertly to inform for the CIA.